

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Weekly

Bulletin



GEORGE E. EBRIGHT, M.D.
PRESIDENT

FRED F. GUNDRUM, M.D.
VICE PRESIDENT

A. J. SCOTT, JR., M.D.

WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D.

SECRETARY AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER

EDWARD F. GLASER, M.D.

ADELAIDE BROWN, M.D.

ROBERT A. PEERS, M.D.

Entered as second-class matter February 21, 1922, at the post office at Sacramento, California, under the Act of August 24, 1912.

Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917.

Vol. VI, No. 15

May 21, 1927

GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

**Virulent Smallpox
Comes From Mexico.**

Undiagnosed, unreported smallpox always constitutes a potential source of danger to the local community in which it occurs and to all other communities. A Mexican child was recently brought into Los Angeles County and soon afterward developed symptoms of smallpox which were not known of, however, until more than two weeks following their appearance. County health officials, called at that time, discovered the child dying of a severe meningitis. Whether the meningitis was of smallpox type or whether it was true epidemic cerebrospinal meningitis, superadded, is unknown. The evidence of the smallpox, undiagnosed, and unreported at the time of its appearance, is indisputable.

A Mexican locomotive engineer arrived in El Paso April 18th which was evidently the first day of prodromal symptoms of smallpox. He came to Los Angeles County, where, on the fourth day, he developed the typical eruption of confluent smallpox. His case was treated by a Mexican "spirit doctor" who did not report the case and who was prosecuted by the Los Angeles County Health Department. Conviction was secured and a fine of \$25 or 25 days in jail was imposed. At the same time the "spirit doctor" was convicted of violating the Medical Practice Act, since he was practicing without a license, and was sentenced to serve 180 days in jail, sentence suspended for two years.

The patient attended by this convicted "spirit doctor" died.

These two cases indicate that virulent smallpox is being brought into the United States from Mexico. It is apparent that this locomotive engineer crossed the border while suffering the prodromal stage of his smallpox and there was no evidence that he had been vaccinated against the disease. Mexico requires vaccination as a prerequisite for entering that country. Successful vaccination of all Mexicans who enter the United States should be insisted upon.

The real wealth of the nation does not consist in its money, in the value of its trade or in the extent of its dominion. These are valuable only as they help to maintain a population—and not only a part of it—of the right quality; men, women and children possessing bodily vigor, alert mind, firm character, courage and self control.—Sir Arthur Neusholme.

**Announce Social
Hygiene Institute.**

The second Institute of the American Social Hygiene Association will be held at Chautauqua in the summer of 1927 in cooperation with the Chautauqua Institution and the Chautauqua Summer Schools at Chautauqua, N. Y. The institute will open July 5th and will continue through August 12th. A course in Sex and Education will be given by Dr. Thomas W. Galloway. The institute faculty is composed of Mrs. Anna Garlin Spencer, Director; Valeria H. Parker, M.D.; Thomas W. Galloway, Ph.D.; Edith Hale Swift, M.D., and Mr. Ray H. Everett.

Los Angeles County Issues Annual Report.

The report of the Los Angeles County Health Department for the year 1926 is well prepared, giving, in condensed form, a clear outline of the activities of the department. The following extracts from the summary of the report by Dr. J. L. Pomeroy, health officer, indicate some of the high lights in Los Angeles County public health administration:

"This department returns annually to the people of Los Angeles County large dividends in improved sanitary conditions and better health. During the early part of the year, a severe epidemic of smallpox was quickly stamped out and 160,000 people were vaccinated free of cost, representing a saving to the people of at least \$200,000. During the year vaccines and serums for prevention of disease were distributed free at a cost of approximately \$15,000. This service is given to persons unable to pay for the same.

Deaths from contagious diseases materially declined during the year in spite of the increased frequency of certain diseases.

While the population has increased two and one-half times during the past three years, infectious diseases have not, by any means, shown this ratio of increase. With the district organization maintained, there is little probability of serious infectious diseases getting out of control in this county.

Laboratory services were increased 100 per cent during the year for bacteriological services and 30 per cent for chemical analyses.

Great service was rendered the agricultural interests in safeguarding the shipments of fruit and vegetables out of the county.

The medical service rendered indigent tuberculous persons in the smaller towns throughout the county is now well organized. In this connection, the number of cases handled has increased from 1010 to 1520, mainly representing immigration from Los Angeles and the larger cities in the county. Although these cases are not properly our patients, nevertheless, we have accepted this burden cheerfully.

Preventive work on tuberculosis is carried out through the Summer Schools in cooperation with the Los Angeles County Tuberculosis Association, and district schools, reaching about 500 children during the summer months.

There were 467 fewer physicians beginning practice in the county in 1926 than in 1925.

Births showed an increase of 186 and an excess over deaths amounting to 1255, an exceedingly healthy sign.

The Japanese births have declined from the high peak of 34 per cent of the total in 1917 to 5 per cent of the total in 1926. Mexican births have increased from 12 per cent in 1917 to 30 per cent in 1926.

There has been a remarkable decline in infant mortality, as a result of our educational work at health centers, representing a saving of over 300 infants who would otherwise have died had rates of 1916 and 1917 prevailed.

The white infant mortality, 41 per thousand, is a record for a large rural district in the United States.

Free service on the education of the child was received by 25,576 mothers at the health centers during the year.

The dental work has returned valuable dividends to nearly 30,000 persons. In addition to this curative work, 42,000 children received educational advice.

In the Sanitary Division, the department rendered great service to the people, making nearly 250,000 inspections and abating nearly 53,000 nuisances. Sanitary conditions throughout the county are very excellent as is reflected in an extremely low typhoid fever rate, being less than 4 deaths per 100,000 population.

Purity of milk is guaranteed the entire county for the first time in the history of our health department. Improvement in quality of milk through reorganization of this work has been very marked and has received state wide recognition.

Rigorous enforcement of the pure food laws has been continued, but somewhat handicapped by lack of proper legislation.

The services rendered the public through the nursing division are worthy of more recognition. We cooperate with 135 school districts in joint employment of nurses and the public health nurse is the greatest educational worker for the prevention of sickness and improvement of health conditions in the home. Whereas in the past, it was a common thing for schools to be closed from epidemic disease, this rarely happens today. The increase in average daily attendance more than pays the upkeep of the nursing division.

Two additional cities joined the County Health Department during the

year; namely, Monterey Park and Arcadia. At the present time, twenty-five cities have coordinated their work with the County Health Department. The fact that no city has withdrawn from this service shows that it is highly efficient.

During the year, the personnel has increased from 244 to 288. The need for encouraging educational training in public health is urgent as we have great difficulty in filling new positions. The Department is cooperating with the University of California, the Rockefeller Foundation and other training institutions in every possible manner to improve the training of its personnel. The members of the department have responded freely to requests for lectures, demonstrations and exhibits. Over 150 of these meetings were attended during the year. Nearly 400,000 educational bulletins of all kinds prepared and mimeographed by the department were distributed free of cost to the public.

Many notable events have occurred during the year; namely, the occupancy of our new quarters in the Hall of Justice; the completion of the new Health Center at San Fernando and the beginning of the new center at Compton. These added facilities have improved the services rendered the public greatly."



The New York Maternity Center Association takes care of pregnant women, and last year—1926—it was so successful in this work that not a single one of the 2,000 mothers cared for died as the result of childbirth. If this group had shown the same maternal death rate as that for the city in general, 8 or more of the 2,000 would have lost their lives. The association formerly gave care exclusively to poor women, but last year it offered its services to mothers of the professional and salaried classes and nearly 200 such mothers took advantage of them.



MORBIDITY.*

Diphtheria.

99 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Alameda 1, Berkeley 1, Oakland 12, Fresno County 2, Glenn County 6, Humboldt County 1, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 20, Alhambra 1, Hermosa Beach 1, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 23, Montebello 1, Orange County 1, Brea 1, Santa Ana 1, Sacramento 5, North Sacramento 1, Escondido 2, National City 2, San Diego 2, San Francisco 6, Stockton 1, San Mateo 1, Santa Clara County 1, Yreka 1, Sutter County 1.

Scarlet Fever.

213 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 1, Alameda 4, Berkeley 5, Oakland 26, San Leandro 1, Plymouth 1, Antioch 1, Richmond 6, Fresno

County 3, Clovis 1, Humboldt County 2, Eureka 1, Inyo County 1, Kings County 1, Los Angeles County 20, Alhambra 2, Beverly Hills 1, Burbank 1, El Monte 1, Glendale 1, Long Beach 11, Los Angeles 32, Monrovia 3, San Gabriel 3, Whittier 7, Hawthorne 5, Signal Hill 1, Madera 1, Orange County 4, Santa Ana 2, Placer County 1, Sacramento 1, San Diego 18, San Francisco 23, Stockton 2, Paso Robles 1, San Mateo 1, Santa Clara County 8, Los Gatos 1, Palo Alto 1, San Jose 6, Sonoma County 1.

Smallpox.

34 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Oakland 21, Los Angeles County 3, Salinas 1, Orange 1, Riverside County 1, Sacramento 4, San Francisco 2, Santa Clara County 1.

Measles.

1523 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Alameda 5, Berkeley 7, Oakland 65, San Leandro 3, Fresno County 1, Fresno 14, Orland 3, Imperial 1, Kern County 22, Bakersfield 2, Hanford 5, Lemoore 4, Los Angeles County 163, Alhambra 7, Arcadia 6, Avalon 5, Azusa 5, Beverly Hills 4, Claremont 1, Compton 14, El Monte 7, Glendale 108, Glendora 1, Hermosa Beach 3, Huntington Park 1, La Verne 1, Long Beach 23, Los Angeles 217, Monrovia 32, Pomona 38, Redondo Beach 1, San Fernando 6, San Gabriel 7, Sierra Madre 9, Whittier 2, Torrance 1, Lynwood 2, Hawthorne 5, South Gate 1, Monterey Park 6, Sausalito 10, Orange County 31, Anaheim 1, Brea 18, Fullerton 2, Newport Beach 6, Orange 9, Santa Ana 24, Seal Beach 4, La Habra 3, Placer County 2, Riverside County 13, Riverside 63, Sacramento 4, San Bernardino County 9, Ontario 18, San Diego County 79, Coronado 23, San Diego 166, San Francisco 77, San Joaquin County 6, Lodi 1, Manteca 12, Stockton 31, San Luis Obispo County 27, San Mateo County 4, Burlingame 21, San Bruno 1, San Mateo 6, Santa Barbara County 11, Santa Clara County 9, Gilroy 1, Palo Alto 2, San Jose 1, Sunnyvale 2, Shasta County 7, Yreka 1, Petaluma 1, Modesto 1, Turlock 1, Dinuba 7.

Typhoid Fever.

Six cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Imperial County 1, Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 1, San Francisco 1, San Joaquin County 1, Redding 1.

Whooping Cough.

236 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Alameda 10, Berkeley 18, Oakland 47, San Leandro 1, Eureka 3, Hanford 3, Lemoore 5, Los Angeles County 19, Alhambra 5, Burbank 1, El Monte 1, Glendale 7, Huntington Park 2, Long Beach 12, Los Angeles 11, Monrovia 4, Sierra Madre 1, Whittier 2, Monterey Park 1, Sausalito 1, Orange County 2, Anaheim 2, Fullerton 3, Orange 1, Santa Ana 1, Riverside County 6, Riverside 1, San Diego 17, San Francisco 40, San Joaquin County 2, Manteca 1, Stockton 3, Mountain View 1, San Jose 1, Benicia 1.

Meningitis (Epidemic).

Three cases of epidemic meningitis have been reported, as follows: San Francisco 1, Red Bluff 1, Grass Valley 1.

Leprosy.

Los Angeles reported two cases of leprosy.

Poliomyelitis.

Five cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 1, San Francisco 1, Manteca 1, Solano County 1.

*From reports received on May 16th and 17th, for week ending May 14th.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS.

Disease	1927				1926			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending May 14 received by May 17	Week ending			Reports for week ending May 15 received by May 18
	April 23	April 30	May 7		April 24	May 1	May 8	
Anthrax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Botulism	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chickenpox	492	547	428	415	291	295	236	251
Diphtheria	142	134	130	99	99	95	106	107
Dysentery (Bacillary)	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	4
Encephalitis (Epidemic)	4	3	3	0	1	0	1	2
Gonococcus Infection	106	109	93	97	83	111	124	51
Influenza	39	23	40	20	17	17	19	27
Jaundice (Epidemic)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leprosy	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	0
Malaria	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Measles	2722	2511	2211	1523	319	404	468	492
Meningitis (Epidemic)	11	11	4	3	2	3	3	3
Mumps	199	307	259	201	318	346	293	325
Paratyphoid Fever	4	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Pneumonia (lobar)	111	63	55	23	38	33	38	37
Poliomyelitis	3	1	5	5	1	5	1	2
Rabies (Animal)	7	9	7	12	10	9	4	7
Rabies (Human)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rocky Mt. Spotted Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	198	205	190	213	114	126	130	144
Smallpox	45	39	27	34	103	66	37	41
Syphilis	92	135	189	96	85	117	187	70
Tetanus	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Trachoma	1	39	3	8	2	2	4	2
Trichinosis	16	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis	190	186	243	211	156	163	269	181
Typhoid Fever	18	12	12	6	17	17	21	25
Typhus Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	204	212	301	236	76	76	83	66
Totals	4610	4550	4203	3205	1736	1887	2026	1838

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES BY AGE GROUPS, APRIL, 1927.

Disease	0-1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+	Adult
Anthrax											
Botulism					1						
Chickenpox	60	376	1276	233	35	19	32	10	4	1	4
Diphtheria	11	115	156	78	24	24	36	19	10	0	5
Dysentery (Bacillary)								1		1	
Encephalitis (Epidemic)	1		3			1	1	1	2	4	
Erysipelas	5	3	1	1	1	2	2	6	8	14	
Food Poisoning					1		1				1
German Measles	4	26	83	91	43	23	9	5	2	4	
Gonococcus Infection	1	3	6	6	59	98	125	40	10	2	
Hookworm							1				
Jaundice (Epidemic)											
Leprosy											1
Malaria			1				1				
Measles	190	2364	6379	1330	238	113	147	49	17	14	45
Meningitis (Epidemic)	8	7	2	6	1	2	5	2			1
Mumps	5	67	496	288	49	17	35	14	1	5	46
Ophthalmia Neo.											
Paratyphoid				2			2	1			
Pellagra							1		1	3	
Pneumonia (Lobar)	10	43	22	8	12	8	12	30	20	80	1
Poliomyelitis		1	1	2	1		1				
Scarlet Fever		162	371	147	41	30	32	12	4	1	9
Smallpox	1	14	54	18	11	7	8	21	11	3	3
Syphilis	4		5	11	26	83	117	104	65	43	
Tetanus			2	1							
Trachoma		2	1	4							
Trichinosis		1			1	2	6	4	2		3
Tuberculosis	15	21	30	21	43	111	184	161	87	75	
Typhoid		2	5	9	5	5	8	7	3		3
Whooping Cough	61	245	365	51	9	1	2		1		